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CALENDAR

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ECHOES

AL KORVEMAKER

The Quest for Meaning

The other day I was at the YMCA getting changed for my workout when I overheard a conversation two others were having about the religious complexities of the world of terrorism which we hear about in the news. One of the men indicated that the problem exists because each group has the dogmatic conviction that they have the monopoly on truth while in reality there are many truths none of which has more authority than another. The other man disagreed saying there had to be one truth that exists.

I am not sure if the first gentleman was aware that he was supporting elements of postmodernism. While postmodernism is difficult to define, it has as part of its beliefs that truth is shaped by cultural and political bias and that meaning and experience can only be created by the individual. This emerging worldview has also had an impact on Christians young and old. Reginald Bibby in his book *Teen Trends* indicates that teens' interest in organized religion is faltering, while interest in personal spirituality remains high. How is this possible? According to Bibby, "people who otherwise would be worshipping in churches and relying on the authority of tradition are writing and talking about their personal quests for meaning." (p. 59 *Teen Trends*) Of course this presents opportunities and challenges to the home, church and school.

On the one hand it's encouraging that teens (and adults) are searching, for it means the fields are ripe for a spiritual harvest. On the other hand the church, home and school must be more vigilant in guiding teens in the way of Biblical truths. While all three are concerned with the spirituality of the young, the school has as its main task to connect this blossoming Christian faith with learning. Christian school teachers are challenged to teach the curriculum in such a way as to relay relevant Biblical truths and inspire students to recognize that God is sovereign over all creation. Christian faith cannot be separated from being active participants in creation.

It is our hope that students may realize that meaning is found in the truth of scripture and its application to their lives of service in this world. Perhaps, the man at the YMCA claiming there is one truth was a Christian school graduate. ◀



TED HARRIS

From the Administrator

Feelings can bend an administrator's perceptions of the way things really are; they can distort his perspective or even sidetrack him from directions God would have him follow. Nevertheless, I need to say that school feels good this year. High scores on tests (like our school's 98% success rate on last year's Grade 10 Literacy Test), post-secondary acceptance percentages and budget surpluses are helpful indicators of excellence and stability, but there is no substitute for walking down a hallway or into a classroom and getting a strong sense of cooperation and respect. Good relationships are the soil in which good learning flourishes. So school feels good because we are blessed with terrific students whose parents back up what we are doing, and we have excellent teachers who are striving hard this year to be clear in both learning and behaviour expectations.

Our strategic planning continues into its third year. We have seen the fruits of many of the first two years' plans. The major topics for research, discussion and decision this year include the following: a broader instrumental music program, a review of our co-curricular program, a revised human sexuality curriculum, a fund raising protocol, an active alumni association, constitutional review, a formalized staff development plan, harmonized relationships with our feeder schools, and a facility improvement plan.

I am struck with awe at the efforts of our Gateway Campaign committee. They have devoted many evenings and many hours to plan a campaign that will position our school to be a blessing to a new generation of Christian families. Please look elsewhere in this issue of Echoes for details about the campaign. We sincerely hope that many of our supporters will be in attendance when we launch the public phase of our campaign at an SDCH assembly on October 17 at 9:00 am. If you come, I think you will leave encouraged.

SDCH was by God's grace able to finish last school year with a small budget surplus. The board and administration are making a strong effort to do this continually. I would like to give our finance committee and our bookkeeper, Caroline Eyk, recognition for a job well done. Greater detail will be available to our members in the package preceding our membership meeting on November 9.

As in any calling, we respond as wisely as we can to current issues, all the while praying for the Spirit's direction. I feel very good about the school year underway. May we together seek to be faithful to the task of tending to the care and development of life at SDCH, God's blessing to us. ◀

Gateway Campaign Launch

You're invited...
Tuesday, October 17 at 9 AM
in the SDCH gymnasium.

Join students and staff for: Devotions,
Dignitary Greetings, Music by the SDCH Choir
and Praise Team, Special Announcements
and Refreshments.

Be the first to hear the official campaign total
raised to date for the Gateway Campaign!

Please contact John Langendoen,
Campaign Chair, for further details.
john@willowbrooknurseryseries.com

*"Now finish the work, so that your eager
willingness to do it may be matched by your
completion of it, according to your means."*
2 Corinthians 8:11

Board Report

Another school year has started again. Time flies by very quickly. Staff, Board members and Committees are all back at work in the calling of giving our children a Christ-centered education. This is something we should be excited about and also thankful for.

The Board is continuing it's work in visioning and preparing our school for the years that lie ahead. Our strategic plan was updated again this spring and many goals and objectives are in place.

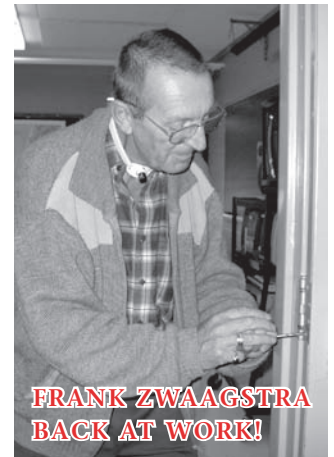
Last year the Board decided that it was time to have a Capital Campaign Drive for the fall of 2006. The goal is to eliminate our current debt from our last expansion and to make some improvements to the school. It is called the "Gateway Campaign" and the committee responsible for this task has been hard at work behind the scenes in preparation for this vital campaign. More information will follow soon.

The Board is also preparing for our upcoming society meeting which will be held on Nov 9/06. During this meeting there will be voting for 3 new Board Members. The Board invites the membership to submit any names they feel should be on the Board. The Board has a Nominating Committee with a mandate to find qualified, talented people to fill these positions.

In closing the Board wants to thank all the people involved in the task of Christian Education for their tireless hours of work in the goal of our Mission Statement which says "SDCH offers a Christ centered education, in a nurturing atmosphere, which enables students to develop their talents to the fullest potential for service in all areas of God's kingdom." ◀

Community in Action

Looking for a way to use your gifts of service and hospitality? Look no further than SDCH's Community in Action committee (CIA). The CIA is a new sub committee of promotion that provides hospitality at various events throughout the school year. It promises to be a lot of fun working together to promote positive relationships among our school's membership. For more information or to sign up, call Al Korvemaker at the school 905-957-3255. ◀



HENRY KOORNNEEF, CFP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
FOUNDATION FOR NIAGARA CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Our Foundation Report A CFP's perspective

CFP stands for Certified Financial Planner, credentials that are recognized worldwide. The Financial Planners Standard Council is the licensing authority for the CFP credentials in Canada. Want to know what impact working with a CFP could have for you? Visit the FPSC website at www.cfp-ca.org to learn more.

Who needs a financial plan? Do you understand or are you familiar with the financial planning process? Many of us do not know the answers to these questions despite our ready access to information. The reality is, we all need a financial plan, to some extent. Our personal objectives and circumstances are all very different and therefore each of our individual financial plans will also be unique. The financial planning process is also another ideal time to incorporate a planned gift for the eventual benefit of Smithville District Christian High.

To get this process started or to request a review of your current arrangements, please call or email me today! Inquiries may also be directed to John Langendoen (905-892-3972) or Bill VanderKlippe (905-386-7157), the SDCH representatives on the Foundation Board.

*All inquiries and information shared will be kept confidential! ◀

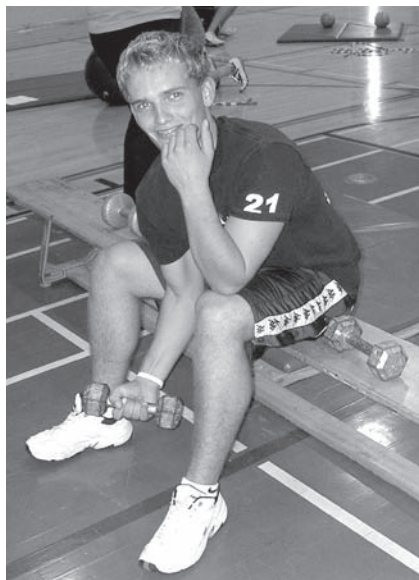
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS: Physical Education

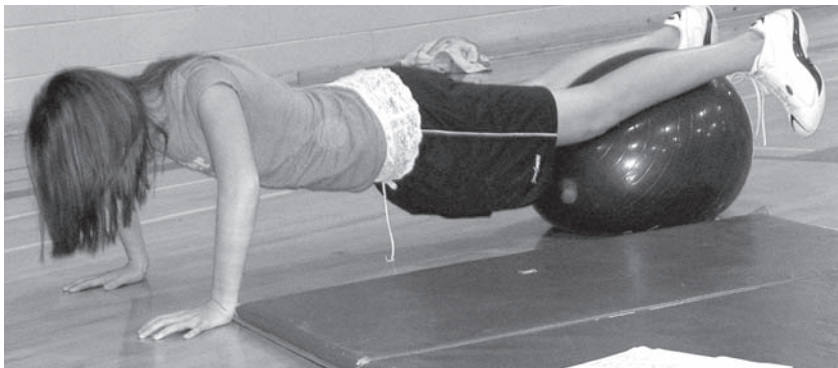
You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally. (1 Corinthians 9:24-25, The Message)

The challenge of educating students with the knowledge and passion to take care of their bodies and souls is increasingly important in today's culture. According to one of our school's goals, as identified in all Physical Education classes, we are to "recognize that our being and resources belong to God and are therefore to be cared for with wisdom and obedience." Food choices, trust exercises, fitness, friendships, drugs, individual and team sports, bullying, stress, and sexuality are a variety of the topics we cover in our Physical Education courses. In each class, whether intentionally or not, students interact with culture through these topics in discussion, and in many cases challenge each other in practical ways to be different...and most importantly, to be Christ-like.

In our sedentary world it is becoming more apparent that the importance of being physically active must be more than taught; it needs to be practiced. Therefore, at SDCH the Physical Education program is compulsory in grades 9 and 10. At these levels the majority of the activities are team sports oriented toward fitness. The senior-level PE classes (which are electives) focus more on individual sports, in order to prepare our students for a lifestyle of healthy and active living.

We have been incredibly blessed with bodies that are able to operate at levels beyond our comprehension. What an amazing Creator we have, who made us so wonderfully. To learn how to engage culture, while truly caring for our bodies physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually, is a challenge that we as teachers and students face each and every day. Thank God that we don't have to do that alone. ◀





Welcome, new teachers!

SDCH has been richly blessed with the addition of four new members to its staff. Each has been gifted in beautiful ways that have added wonderfully to the activities and education offered here. We thank them for responding to God's call to lead and enrich the lives of the young people who pass through their classrooms! These are their personal mission statements:



ANNELIES DEGROOT
LIBRARIAN

I would love to encourage the students to develop a personality that reflects their love for the Lord and to respect and work with the talents He has given them. I would be thankful if I can be an instrument in that process.



KATE VAHRMEYER
ENGLISH,
CIVICS, MATH

My personal aim is to develop in my students an internal desire to strive to be their best by using the talents God has given to them not only in school, but in every day activities.



ANDY WUNDERINK
ART

I seek to open eyes to the beauty and design of God's creation and mirror that in the appreciation and creation of art.



GRACE HULLEMAN
MATH

I pray that everyday I may help guide the students in a life dedicated to Christ so that as they grow they may use their talents to serve God in all areas of life.



GRADE NINE...

A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS



"THERE IS
A TIME FOR
EVERYTHING,
AND A
SEASON
FOR EVERY
ACTIVITY
UNDER
HEAVEN"

ECCLESIASTES 3:1

Welcome Class of 2010



TRINKA TRAVER



LAURA KELLY



REBECCA LINDEBOOM



TRACEY WIERSMA



BRANDON VERMEER



NICOLE HEERSINK



REBECCA STEPITA



VANESSA BUMA



CAMERON DIELEMAN



DAWN ELMERS



SCOTT VANDERWIER



COLLEEN SLAPPENDEL



BRENT HARRIS



CODY VANSOELEN



T.J. SONNEVELD



STEVEN ZANTINGH



STEPHANIE DEHAAN



TERYL KIERS



MITCHELL VANGEYTENBEEK



ROBERT SMIT



KYLE BEZEMEER



JUSTIN SCHOLMAN



ANDREW VANDERSTEEN



MICHAEL VANGEEST



DYLAN KOORNEEF



CODY SCHULENBERG



NICHOLAS COPELAND



DAVID DEJONG



GREG HOEKSTRA



JACOB VANGEEST



VICTORIA VANDERSTOEP



JULIE VOS



MARYANNA WILSON-DEBOER



AMBER HOGEVEEN



HANNAH KIKKERT



SARAH VERMEER



KENDRA ANTONIDES



GLENN TILSTRA



NICK HOEKSTRA



STEPHANIE TIERSMA



SARAH BUYS



ADRIENNE BONSMa



JESSICA DEKKER



LLOYD VANOENEN



CALVIN KAMPHUIS



BRADEN COLYN



JOEL ATTEMA



ANTHONY HANEMAAYER



LAURIE DEROO



JESSIE VEENHOF



MELANIE GLINTZ



ANDREW VERMEER



ADAM VERMEER



SARAH WESTERHOFF



AMY TEEUWSEN



VALERIE VANGEST



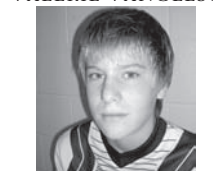
NICOLE ZANTINGH



REBECCA STIEVA



ALEXANDRA KOORNNEEF



JORDAN VANDERHEIDE

Calendar

OCTOBER 25

Pastors Luncheon

OCTOBER 26, 27

Teachers Convention

NOVEMBER 1

Grade 8 Day

NOVEMBER 3, 4

OCSSAA Boys Volleyball,
Girls Basketball

NOVEMBER 9

Annual Fall
Membership meeting
Gr. 11/12 Parents
Information Seminar

NOVEMBER 10

First Term Reports sent out

NOVEMBER 14, 16

Learning Conferences
(7:00-9:20)

NOVEMBER 17

Learning Conferences
(9:00-12:00)

Professional Development
(12:00-3:00)

NOVEMBER 29

Career Day

Student Services

The new school year has begun with many new things in the guidance department. Here are some of them:

- David Wonder has replaced Deb Wiebenga (who is on maternity leave) and is available in the afternoons in the guidance office. Officially he has one guidance period per semester, but he seems to like being in his office more than that! Mr. Wonder completed his Guidance Part 1 this past summer which is formal university training towards his Guidance Specialist.
- Amber Vanderheide, a grade 12 student, is doing an internship in the Guidance Office this semester. Although Amber's post secondary plans lean towards the Health Sciences, she enjoys office work and organizational challenges. She helped with the recent Christian College Fair and we are looking forward to her help on a number of big projects this semester.
- Speaking of big projects, this year we will be having a Career Day – we do this every other year at SDCH – it will be on Wednesday, November 29, 2006. It is an all day educational event that all students are expected to attend. We have a staff committee helping us find a good variety of dynamic speakers to share about their vocation with students.
- Last year we graduated 72 students, one of our largest graduating classes at SDCH, and three of them were international students. Twenty six of the students went on to university, thirty one went on to community college programs, ten students went into the work force and two are finishing up some high school credits.
- We welcome 62 grade nine students this year – we had a wonderful time at our recent Grade Nine Blast and met the parents at our recent SDCH 101 evening. We are looking forward to facilitating the class of 2010! ◀



JORDAN STUIVE

Students' Council Report

Students' council 2006-07 has gotten off to a great start! With a full day of discussion under our belts, we are ready to make this year a great one for our fellow classmates!

At our retreat we decided which position each member would fill, and came to a consensus as to who would serve best in each position. The positions are as follows: President: Dan Haanstra, Vice All: Jordan Stuiwe, Secretary: Tori Vermeer, Treasurer: Sara Stuiwe, Activities Coordinator: Josh Kooiman and Advertising Coordinator: Brent Harris.

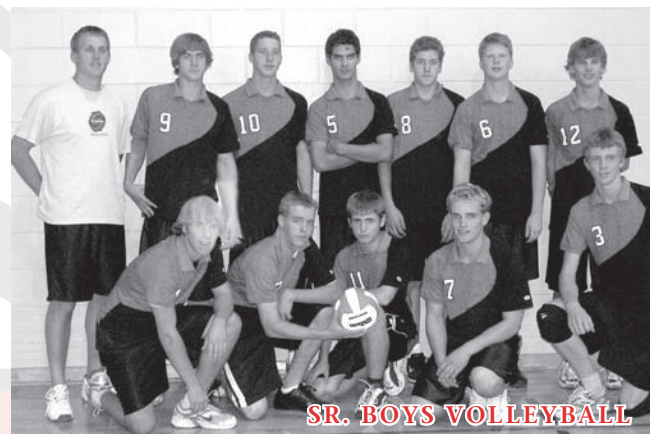
After looking over wants and needs for a couple of hours, we came up with a budget. Topics such as spirit days, student involvement and our theme for the year were also discussed at the retreat. We are excited to introduce our theme of "A time for everything..." based on Ecclesiastes 3:1, which we will explain at our assembly on October 11. The Student Council Executive is well on our way to making this year a time of excitement and enjoyment for the school we serve! ◀

Storm Report

Athletic Council wants to welcome you to the athletic season of 06/07 at SDCH. This year our Athletic Council has six members on it, including Mrs. Cook, Tarin Colyn, Jasmin Elmers, Rachel Scholman, Kelly Slappendel, and Esther Vermeer. These members are looking forward to a great year of SDCH athletics!

Sports teams have been made and season games are starting. The Junior and Senior Boys Volleyball teams have both played in tournaments. They began their season this past week, and are off to a good start. Both the Junior and Senior Girls Basketball teams started out on a good note, winning their first season game. The Senior Girls Basketball team played in the Christian Schools tournament at Redeemer University College this past weekend. The Cross Country team has been busy practising and has attended two meets as well.

There are many scheduled events for you to attend in the next couple of weeks. Please come out and cheer for our SDCH athletes! ◀



Athletics Calendar

OCTOBER

- 17 Jr. GBB @ Beacon, BVB Beacon @ SDCH
- 19 Zone Cross Country in Niagara Falls
- 21-22 Sr. GBB Brampton Christian Academy Tournament
- 24 GBB Niagara District @ SDCH, BVB SDCH @ Niagara District
- 25 BVB South Lincoln and Great Lakes @ SDCH
- 26 SOSSA Cross Country in Niagara Falls
- 30 GBB Westpark @ SDCH
- 31 Sr. BVB SDCH @ Beacon

NOVEMBER

- 2 Sr. BVB SDCH @ Beacon
- 4-5 OCSSAA Sr. Girls Basketball Tournament - Hamilton, OCSSAA Sr. Boys Volleyball Tournament - Belleville
- 4 OFSAA Cross Country in Thunder Bay
- 7 BVB Zone Playoffs
- 14 BVB Zone Championships
- 15 GBB Zone Playoffs
- 16 SOSSA Sr. BVB
- 20 SOSSA Jr. BVB
- 23 SOSSA Jr. GBB
- 24 OFSSA Sr. BVB
- 28 SOSSA Sr. GBB
- Nov 30-Dec 2 OFSSAA Sr. GBB



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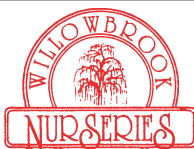
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